

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE BE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 01815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO - NATO/WARSAW PACT BALANCE
BRIEFINGS

REF: STATE 042740 DTG 171957Z FEB 78.

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SUMMARY. THE CABLE PROVIDES USNATO/USDELMC VIEWS ON
SUBJECT BRIEFING. WE PROPOSE DRASTIC SHORTENING AND
SOME RESTRUCTURING. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT NATO/WARSAW PACT
BALANCE BRIEFING. THE BASIS FOR REVIEW WAS BRIEFING
OBJECTIVE, TIME (LENGTH) FOR PRESENTATION AND AUDIENCE.
WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WHICH
HAS GONE INTO THE DRAFT AND THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL PRE-
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SENTED. OUR COMMENTS AT THIS STAGE ARE GENERAL AND
AIMED AT PROVIDING DRAFTERS WITH BROAD OBSERVATIONS WHICH
MAY ASSIST IN ANY REWRITE EFFORTS. WE WILL, OF COURSE,
BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE BRIEFING IN DETAIL AT
WASHINGTON MEETING.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS:

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BRIEFING SHOULD BE TARGETED AT THE SPANISH AUDIENCE. IN THIS REGARD, WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE IBERIAN FOCUS OF THOSE WHO WILL BE EXPOSED TO THE BRIEFING, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF

THE SPANIARDS MAY ALREADY HAVE HEARD THE EUCOM THREAT BRIEFING WHICH WAS PRESENTED EARLIER IN MADRID.

B. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE PRESENTATION ON BROAD SOVIET INTENTIONS OR OBJECTIVES, GIVEN AT THE OUTSET, FURTHER ELABORATED TO KEEP IN BALANCE THE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF CAPABILITIES THAT FOLLOWS. IN OUR VIEW, AN UNDERLYING THRUST OF THE BRIEF SHOULD BE DEMONSTRATION OF SOVIET TRENDS TO EXPAND THEIR CAPABILITY FOR WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS AND INFLUENCE, E.G., THEIR INCREASING ABILITY TO CUT OFF VITAL RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY ROUTES WITH ATTENDANT IMPACT ON NATIONAL ECONOMIES. DOING SO WOULD PERMIT US TO ADDRESS HEAD-ON THE IMPACT THAT WARSAW PACT AGGRESSION OR PRESSURE SHORT OF AGGRESSION WOULD HAVE ON STATES IN WESTERN EUROPE AND TO ARGUE THAT SPANIARDS WHO BELIEVE THEIR COUNTRY CAN REMAIN UNAFFECTED ARE LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD.

C. OBVIOUSLY, THE BRIEFING IS MUCH TOO LONG, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE NEED FOR INTERPRETATION, BE IT SIMULTAN-
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EOUS OR CONSECUTIVE.

D. THE LANGUAGE IN SOME PARTS IS COMPLEX, WHICH MAY MAKE INTERPRETATION AND UNDERSTANDING DIFFICULT.

E. THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF SPECIFIC DATA WHICH MAY OVERWHELM THE AUDIENCE AND NOT BE REMEMBERED ANYWAY. IT MAY BE BETTER TO PREPARE THESE DETAILED FIGURES IN A TABULAR FORM AND LEAVE THEM WITH THE SPANISH.

F. THE USE OF DETAILED ORDER OF BATTLE HAS THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF FOCUSING ON THE CENTRAL REGION. THIS IS EXACERBATED BY THE LENGTH OF THE CENTRAL REGION PRESENTATION AS COMPARED TO THE OTHER REGIONS.

3. SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

A. WE AGREE THAT THE BRIEF SHOULD BEGIN WITH AN OVERVIEW OF SOVIET OBJECTIVES BUT SUGGEST THAT THE "OBJECTIVE" SECTION BE MELDED WITH THE SECTION ON "SOVIET POLICY AND MILITARY STRATEGY".

B. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECTIONS ON "SOVIET/WARSAW PACT FORCES (GROUND, AIR AND NAVAL)" BE DELETED IN TOTO WITH PERTINENT PARTS INCORPORATED IN THE SECTION TITLED "SOVIET OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES". WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE SECTION ON SOVIET NAVAL THREAT - MED/GACI BE INCORPORATED IN THIS SECTION. THIS COMBINED SECTION WOULD FOLLOW SOVIET OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND STRATEGY.

C. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SECTIONS ON "NATO STRATEGY" AND "NATO'S WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE" SHOULD BE COMBINED, CONDENSED AND FOLLOW AS THE THIRD SECTION.

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D. NEXT WE SEE THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA COMING INTO PLAY. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHOW IN THIS SECTION THE SOVIET CAPABILITY TO PROJECT POWER, I.E., USE OF AEROFLOT IN TROOP ROTATIONS, RE-SUPPLY IN AFRICA, GROWING BLUE-WATER NAVAL CAPABILITIES, ETC., AS USEFUL EXAMPLES OF IBERIAN VULNERABILITY.

E. NEXT WE SEE A VERY BRIEF RECAP OF THE NATO MILITARY ORGANIZATION COUPLED WITH THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE SECTION ON NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, WE SEE THE SPECIFIC DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS

BEING HANDLED AS A SEPARATE ITEM APART FROM THE BALANCE BRIEFING.

F. WE BELIEVE THE BRIEFING SHOULD BE RECAPPED/SUMMARIZED WITH THE SECTION ON RELATIVE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

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4. WE WILL PROVIDE BY SEPTTEL COMMENTS ON THE REMAINDER OF THE DRAFT PAPERS AS WELL AS PROVIDE A WORKING DRAFT ON CONSULTATIONS AND ONE ON THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE.

5. THIS IS A JOINT USNATO/USDELMC CABLE.GLITMAN

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